AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A self-locking strap assembly, comprising:

a buckle having an outer concave surface, a cavity and a passageway;

a strap secured to the buckle at a first position and adapted to be inserted into the passageway at a second position; and

a retainer positioned within the cavity of ~~coupled to~~ the buckle such that the buckle covers the retainer and limits movement of the retainer relative to the buckle and wherein the retainer is adapted to engage the strap such that movement in one direction of the strap in the passageway relative to the buckle is inhibited.

2. (original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the strap is made of at least one of nylon and polypropylene.

3. (original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the buckle further includes first and second side concave surfaces.

4. (original) The assembly of claim 3 wherein the first and second side concave surfaces include a plurality of ribs.

5. (original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the strap includes a loop at one end for securing to the buckle.

6. (original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the strap includes a heat staked end adapted to be inserted into the passageway of the buckle.

7. (original) The assembly of claim 1 and further comprising a separator having first and second apertures adapted to receive the strap.

8. (original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the retainer includes first and second pointed barbs adapted to engage the strap.

9. (original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the retainer comprises a serrated blade.

10. (currently amended) The assembly of claim ~~1~~7 wherein the ~~buckle includes a cavity to contain the retainer and adapted to limit movement of the retainer relative to the buckle~~ strap is inserted into the first and the second apertures of the separator before being inserted into the passageway.

11. (currently amended) A self-locking strap assembly comprising:

a buckle having a cavity and a passageway;

a strap secured to the buckle at a first position and adapted to be inserted to the passageway at a second position; ~~and~~

a retainer disposed in the cavity and including a first barb and a second barb adapted to engage the strap such that movement in one direction of the strap in the passageway relative to the buckle is inhibited; ~~.~~ and

a separator having first and second apertures adapted to receive the strap.

12.(original) The self-locking strap assembly of claim 11 wherein the strap is made of at least one of nylon and polypropylene.

13.(original) The assembly of claim 11 wherein the buckle further includes first and second side concave surfaces.

14.(original) The self-locking strap assembly of claim 13 wherein the first and second side concave surfaces include a plurality of ribs.

15.(original) The self-locking strap assembly of claim 11 wherein the strap includes a loop at one end for securing to the buckle.

16.(original) The self-locking strap assembly of claim 11 wherein the strap includes a heat staked end adapted to be inserted into the passageway of the buckle.

17.(currently amended) The self-locking strap assembly of claim 11 ~~and further comprising a separator having first and second apertures adapted to receive the strap~~ wherein the strap is inserted into the first and the second apertures of the separator before being inserted into the passageway.

18.(original) The self-locking strap assembly of claim 11 wherein the retainer is pivotally disposed in the cavity.

19. (new) A method of securing limbs of a person, comprising:

providing a buckle having an outer concave surface, a cavity and a passageway;

providing a strap having a first end secured to the buckle and a second end configured to be inserted into the passageway; and

providing a retainer positioned in the cavity such that the buckle covers the retainer and the cavity limits movement with respect to the buckle and wherein the retainer is adapted to engage the strap to inhibit movement of the strap in one direction relative to the buckle.

20. (new) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

providing a separator having a first and a second aperture configured to receive the strap.

21. (new) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

inserting the second end of the strap into the first and the second apertures before the passageway.